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Chairperson: Ms. Gittens-Joseph ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/55/119, A/55/156, A/55/162-S/2000/715, A/55/257-S/2000/766; A/CONF.187/15)

Agenda item 106: International drug control (A/55/126, A/55/375, A/55/68-S/2000/377, A/55/133-S/2000/682, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/55/260-S/2000/108, A/55/326-S/2000/834)

1. **The Chairperson** reminded the Committee that the General Committee had recommended to the General Assembly that agenda item 105 on crime prevention and criminal justice should also be considered directly in the plenary Assembly for the sole purpose of taking action on the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto.

2. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that Afghanistan remained by far the largest producer of illicit opium in the world. The 10 per cent decrease in production in 2000 was largely due to a drought and must be seen in the perspective of that country's record production in 1999, which had been double that of the year before and three fourths of the world's total. Opium and the heroin derived from it remained a serious threat to Afghanistan's neighbours. The highest heroin addiction rates in the world were in that region, not in Europe or in North America. Afghanistan was also the source of most of the heroin that reached the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Central and Western Europe.

3. In three districts of Afghanistan where the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) operated alternative development pilot projects, poppy cultivation had decreased by 50 per cent. However, the Office did not have sufficient funds to continue even those modest activities. It had intensified its work with Afghanistan's neighbours in an effort to protect them from drug trafficking and had been particularly successful in Tajikistan, where it had helped the Government to establish a new Drug Control Agency, resulting in a 70 per cent increase in overall drug seizures and a 450 per cent increase in seizures of heroin. Much of that success could be attributed to cooperation between the new Agency and the Russian border guards stationed along the Tajik/Afghan border. The "six plus two" group of Central Asian countries, concerned about the threat of Afghan drugs and related drug trafficking (some of which financed arms purchases), had brought the matter to the attention of the Security Council in the spring of 2000 and had recently endorsed a regional action plan which ODCCP would help to implement. In addition, ODCCP and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe would co-host a conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia, to be held in Tashkent on 19 and 20 October 2000.

4. The second largest source of opium was Myanmar. ODCCP was working in that country, but shortfalls in resources might handicap its activities.

5. In the Chapare region of Bolivia, at one time the largest coca-producing region in Latin America, cultivation had been virtually eliminated. In 1998, ODCCP had pledged $50 million in assistance for the Bolivian Government's programmes up to the year 2004; thus far, $22 million had been provided. Bolivia desperately needed that support in order to maintain its success through a difficult period of economic adjustment.

6. In Peru, coca production had dropped by 56 per cent between 1997 and 2000. Although recent coca price increases were worrying, the Government remained firmly committed to the targets set by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together: major reduction by 2003 and full elimination by 2008. In Colombia, the Government's "Plan Colombia" for dealing with coca production and serious security problems was beginning to attract international support. ODCCP was supporting the socio-economic component of the Government's plan.

7. The phenomenon of money laundering was at an all-time high. The amount involved in a single case in 1999 had been equivalent to the gross domestic product of about one third of the Organization's Member States. ODCCP had devoted particular attention to offshore banking jurisdictions involved in money laundering, many of which did not meet minimum international standards. At a meeting held in the Cayman Islands in March 2000, 36 offshore jurisdictions had agreed to undertake measures to comply with acceptable standards and two more had agreed to do so since then. As at 25 September 2000, 24 of those jurisdictions had confirmed their

commitment in writing at the ministerial level, 8 more such commitments were expected to be signed by 30 September. His Office would be providing technical assistance to help jurisdictions meet the standards, including a mentoring programme, where appropriate.

8. The Office's Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, which was designed to achieve demand reduction, was concentrating on two regions — East Africa and Southern Africa and West and Central Asia. Thanks to a large contribution from one donor, ODCCP was committed to setting up 10 treatment centres in the South African townships, the first was already operating in Soweto.

9. In the field of crime prevention, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been held in Vienna in April 2000 and its final declaration, the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century", had been submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at the current session. The Declaration focused on new forms of crime in the era of globalization, such as the exploding traffic in human beings, corruption, money laundering and computer crime. The Congress had stressed the need for a specialized global convention against corruption and had given its strong endorsement to the three global programmes of the Centre for International Crime Prevention on, trafficking in human beings' corruption and organized crime.

10. The Congress had also given a boost to the negotiation of the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had drafted a text, with input from 121 Member States, which had been submitted for adoption by the General Assembly at the current session. The Ad Hoc Committee would continue its work in order to complete negotiations on the three protocols to the draft Convention. A High-Level Political Signing Conference was scheduled for 12 to 15 December in Palermo, Italy, to sign the Convention, which would be the first major global convention of the new millennium. One provision of the draft Convention called for the creation of a special account in the United Nations to fund technical assistance for its implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

11. As for the financial situation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), income to the fund of UNDCP was projected to increase slightly in 2000 to a total of around $73.4 million; that would represent an increase of $21.4 million over the 1997 figure. In 1999, direct programme delivery had improved by 56 per cent amounting to $59 million which went directly for projects, exclusive of support costs. That level was expected to be maintained or slightly increased in 2000. The overall healthy financial situation, however, did not cover the shortfall in funding for programmes in Afghanistan and Myanmar, since most of the funding for the Office's field projects was in the form of earmarked contributions that could not be reassigned.

12. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund had received contributions of $3.3 million in 1999; that represented an increase of 19 per cent over the previous year and 69 per cent over 1997. That level was expected to be maintained in 2000. The signature of the Palermo Convention was expected to boost growth in resources for technical assistance in crime prevention.

13 In conclusion, he stressed that poverty alleviation was a key aspect of the work of his Office, but that it would be ineffective without the rule of law. His Office was encouraged by the set of commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to counter the world drug problem, terrorism, the arms trade, economic crime and transnational crime in general.

14. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) said that his country had become a cocaine producer only in the past decade, when demand had died out in Bolivia and Peru, and he wondered whether such structural changes would undermine the work of the ODCCP. Indeed, the bitter experience of the Andean region might be a useful lesson for Afghanistan and Central and Eastern Europe. Another aspect to examine in Afghanistan and Central and Eastern Europe would be the linkages between the demand for, and the processing of, opium, and trafficking and/or money-laundering activities by criminal organizations. In Colombia, such organizations had also engaged in violence and armed conflict.

15. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) praised the Office's multi-pronged approach to drug control and enquired about obstacles to further alternative development efforts in Afghanistan, particularly since such efforts had been quite effective in Qandahar Province. He hoped that the Executive Director would discuss any problems which had arisen in pilot programmes in alternative development in Afghanistan and any action taken by ODCCP to address them. It was not clear why the equivalent of Afghanistan's revenue from the opium trade — $130-$200 million — could not simply be invested in eradication programmes.

16. He enquired about the effectiveness of measures to control money laundering in recent years. He welcomed the elaboration of the draft Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and expressed the hope that a convention on corruption would also be negotiated. Lastly, referring to General Assembly resolution 54/205 on prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds, adopted by the Second Committee, he asked whether ODCCP was studying that phenomenon and planned to address it in the context of the convention on corruption.

17. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) requested further details on the prospects for the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption. He would also appreciate particulars on the Palermo signing conference in order to ensure high-level representation by his Government. He enquired about budgetary problems in implementing the recommendations of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in West Africa and what assistance the countries concerned could provide. Greater focus on the problems of transit and drug abuse in that part of the world would be extremely helpful. Lastly, he would appreciate information on efforts to coordinate the poverty eradication activities of UNDCP and other organizations of the United Nations system in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

18. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), replying to the representative of Colombia, said that shifts in production trends would not severely undermine drug control strategies. Eradication of opium production in various countries over the decades had never resulted in the heavy concentration (or "ballooning") of the phenomenon elsewhere. After all, it was not possible to transfer production techniques, cultivation and people wholesale from one country to another. Even in an international operation like money laundering, only a finite number of transfers could be made. He believed that there would be no such "balloon effect" in Latin America either. Of course, that depended on the quality of the countermeasures taken and the resources available to implement them.

19. With regard to the point raised by the representative of Pakistan, he said that there were major obstacles to the complete elimination of narcotic crops in Afghanistan: not only the country's internal situation, but also the strong reluctance, particularly by the Taliban, to embark on a credible strategy for such elimination. Meanwhile, a less demanding strategy was in place, namely to strengthen border controls around Afghanistan in order to reduce the flow of drugs to neighbouring countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, which had the highest number of addicts in the world, as well as the Russian Federation and, beyond that, Western Europe. Such a strategy could not be regarded as a long-term solution. However, the short-term results of improving law enforcement and the customs services, thus reducing the drug trade generally, had been fairly impressive. The establishment of the Tajik Drug Control Agency, the technical assistance given to Russian border troops and the tireless efforts of the Iranian authorities on the Afghan border had all had a considerable effect. With the increase in confiscations of drugs, the overall value of the narcotic crops in Afghanistan in 2000 would, thanks to the simple strategy of containment, amount to US$ 90-95 million, rather that US$ 200 million as in previous years. In other words, the traffickers' profits — and the resources to finance the civil war — would be halved.

20. The issue of money laundering by corrupt public officials should be central to the proposed international convention against corruption and bribery. The issue should be tackled from several angles. There should, of course, be the legal element, along with the adoption of best practices on curbing corruption throughout the world. A purely financial approach, however, would also be crucial, by targeting the places where dirty money had been deposited. Already traditional barriers such as bank secrecy were increasingly ineffective; in several cases over the past 10 years dictators' money had been traced and even returned. The amounts of money obtained through political and administrative corruption were comparable to those from other forms

of criminal activity. His Office had discussed with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund the role they could play.

21. As for the signing of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, mentioned by the representative of Guinea, the Secretary-General would very shortly be inviting all Governments to attend the High-Level Political Signing Conference in Palermo. Over 120 countries were participating in the current negotiations on the draft Convention and as many delegations as possible should attend and give the draft Convention a good start by signing it. In that context, he said that, thanks to generous support from the Government of Italy, delegations from developing countries would be given financial support to cover the five days of the opening ceremony and the discussion on the implementation of the draft Convention.

22. With regard to his Office's strategy in Africa, and the link between poverty reduction and drug-related crime, he said that the past two years had seen a substantial improvement. There was much less resistance to the concept that reducing the demand for drugs was a crucial component of poverty reduction. If the rule of law did not exist in a country, it would be impossible to deal with addiction, or the resulting crime and violence. The experience of several Latin American countries was heartening: there had been a substantial decrease in the illegal economy and in the amount of money sent abroad. The illegal economy's share of gross domestic product had been dramatically reduced in Bolivia, where it was under 1 per cent, in Peru, where it was also about 1 per cent, and in Colombia, where it was about 2.5 per cent. Those figures represented a six- to sevenfold reduction from 10 years earlier and had been achieved by reducing the cultivation of illicit crops. Moreover, with the fall in profits, it was harder for corrupt officials to influence public policy through corruption, theft and violence. That was a cause for optimism. Equally encouraging was the fact that development agencies in donor countries were changing their attitudes to the fight against corruption; they had become more supportive of such policies as strengthening border controls or training law enforcement officials.

23. **Ms. Contamin** (France) requested further details about the proposed additional protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and about the technical assistance that the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention could provide to implement the draft Convention and the protocols thereto. Secondly, she asked the Executive Director to be more specific about the impact of earmarking resources on his Office's work.

24. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) said that those participating in armed conflicts in Africa and elsewhere often acted in a way that could not be described as natural — for example, when they amputated the limbs of innocent civilians — and were clearly acting under the influence of drugs. He wondered whether any studies on the effect of drugs on the waging of armed conflicts had been carried out and, if so, what conclusions had been reached. If there had been no such studies, they should be undertaken in the future. The same applied to the AIDS situation.

25. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said, in response to the representative of France, that his Office was confident that the three additional protocols to the draft Convention would be agreed on at the end of the current session of negotiations. It was important that they should be approved, since they dealt specifically with various criminal markets, particularly those relating to trafficking in firearms and trafficking in persons. The discussions were continuing, but he urged countries to find a way of overcoming their differences, so that a complete international instrument could be approved in Palermo. That was the best possible way to combat organized crime.

26. Technical assistance was also an important part of the machinery provided by the draft Convention, which contained a provision to establish a fund that would give developing countries, in particular, the means to implement it. It was crucial that there should be universal standards severely limiting bank secrecy and facilitating access to financial documents by investigators. That could be achieved only by an international instrument. Otherwise, illegal activities could easily be displaced from one part of the world to another. It was of great importance that donor countries should provide a further commitment in that direction, although the plan was that a percentage of the illegal assets confiscated in each country should go into the central fund. It was an ingenious mechanism, which he hoped would succeed, enabling the draft Convention to be self-funding.

27. The growing practice of earmarking resources had turned out to be a serious obstacle to the flexibility of the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which lacked the resources to deal with emergencies as they occurred. In 1999, for example, the Government of Ecuador had requested help following a dramatic deterioration in the drug situation, which it feared was being affected by the situation in Colombia and elsewhere. All he had been able to raise from donors was US$ 500,000, which had had virtually no impact on the criminal activities in question. In that case, and others, the Office could have been far more effective, if it were not for the fact that 90 per cent of its funds were earmarked. Speedy action was sometimes possible, as in the case of the Tajik Drug Control Agency, but two or three years of funding had had to be anticipated and donors had had to be convinced. He urged States not to insist on earmarking their contributions.

28. With regard to the use of drugs in armed conflict, especially as they affected children, his Office had carried out some research, but there was no point in duplicating the excellent work done by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The same applied to work on AIDS: although it formed part of the overall United Nations HIV/AIDS Programme, his Office dealt particularly with the relationship between HIV and drug addiction. There, too, however, earmarking prevented a speedy response to emergencies; AIDS in Africa had come to qualify as an emergency. The months or years devoted to obtaining money from donors could be extremely frustrating.

29. **Mr. Issa** (Lebanon) said that it was largely poverty that impelled farmers to produce narcotic crops. He suggested that, in cases where Governments wanted to put a stop to such crops but needed help, the United Nations should give the Office the funds it needed instead of waiting for contributions that might or might not be received from donors.

30. **Mr. Arlacchi** (United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) fully concurred. Indeed, funds were needed not only to eliminate illicit crops but also to provide for subsequent sustainability. In Pakistan and Lebanon, for example, hashish and poppy crops had been successfully eliminated, but, until he had committed the United Nations to help in the introduction of new crops, the total success of the operation had been in question. Donors had been easier to convince, moreover, because there had been less time pressure on his Office. However, recipient countries could also play an important role by seeking other resources or soft loans. The Bretton Woods institutions had become more sensitive to such issues. He pointed, however, to the paradox that it was easier to obtain funds for development than for finding an alternative to narcotic crops.

31. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that in document A/55/156 the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was misnamed; the title should be preceded by the words "United Nations". She requested a corrigendum to that effect. Secondly, she asked what role the Institute would play in the new initiatives on trafficking in firearms in Africa.

32. **Mr. Arlacchi** (United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that, in common with other participants in the network connected with his Office, the Institute was involved in all the Office's activities. Indeed, he hoped to expand cooperation with all institutes affiliated with the United Nations, mobilizing more resources for reducing crime, corruption, poverty and AIDS in Africa. His Office had four regional offices in Africa, in Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. Donors were being asked to provide support and the office in South Africa, in particular, was being strengthened.

33. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that the representative of Uganda had drawn attention to the name of the African Institute at the fifty-fourth session. The question was still under review but, according to a number of legal opinions, which she would gladly read out at the next meeting of the Committee, the title should not include the words "United Nations", since the Institute had not originally been established under United Nations auspices.

34. **Mr. Doutriaux** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Norway, said that the European Union shared the international community's concern at the threat posed to human health and social stability by the manufacture of, trafficking in and consumption of drugs. Particularly worrying was the unprecedented increase in the manufacture of synthetic drugs, although there was little public awareness of

that phenomenon. A rapid-warning mechanism capable of detecting new molecules had been developed in the European Union, but the problem continued to escalate. He therefore urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to concentrate their efforts in that area.

35. With regard to demand reduction, there was a need to focus not only on the quantitative aspects, but also on the quality of care with a view to determining what constituted best practice. In the European Union, as in other regions of the world, the most common pattern of consumption was to combine illicit substances, such as cannabis or ecstasy, with alcohol, tobacco or prescription drugs. The European Union's response to that problem was to reduce the risks, not only for substance abusers, but also for their families. Such an approach could help to combat the mechanisms of social exclusion linked to drug addiction.

36. The international community could not prohibit illicit drug use while tolerating the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking, which, in fact, constituted about half of all "dirty" money. The European Union therefore called for the strict application of the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money-laundering (FATF).

37. It was important that Member States should take into account the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem, held in June 1998, in developing their national and regional drug control policies. The priorities of the European Union's anti-drug strategy for the period of 2000-2004 were the promotion of an approach that balanced demand and supply reduction; the gathering of objective and reliable data; the evaluation of anti-drug initiatives implemented at the level of the Union; and the development of approaches that took into account both licit and illicit psychoactive substances. Those priorities also constituted the guidelines for the European Union's international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. Plans of action had been developed with the Union's partners in the Caribbean, Latin America, southern Africa and Central Asia. Currently, the Union was turning its attention to its partners in East Africa. An important concern in developing plans of action was to promote the integration of drug control and development policies. The European Union urged all its partners to focus their efforts on the African continent, which was increasingly becoming a focal point for drug traffickers.

38. The European Union was committed to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to counter the development of new forms of crime. Given the risk that globalization might aid the spread of such phenomena as trafficking in firearms, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, computer-related crime, money-laundering and corruption, global crime prevention strategies were called for. In that connection, the European Union urged the elaboration of international legal instruments to promote judicial cooperation among States.

39. He expressed satisfaction at the finalization of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee would be able, at its forthcoming eleventh session, to complete its work on the three additional protocols thereto. The adoption of those instruments at the Millennium Assembly would be a major achievement. The European Union called on all States to sign the draft Convention and its additional protocols at the Signing Conference in Palermo and to ratify those instruments at the earliest opportunity.

40. The European Union welcomed the adoption at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century. It looked forward to the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption. Lastly, it urged Member States to strengthen the role of the United Nations specialized agencies in drug control and crime prevention and to provide them with the necessary resources to discharge their mandates effectively.

41. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group wished to draw particular attention to the comments in the report on the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and on the implementation of the results of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Rio Group also welcomed the statements made by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit in which

they expressed their determination to overcome the global problem of drugs through a collective effort.

42. At a recent meeting, the leaders of the Rio Group had reiterated their conviction that efforts based on a comprehensive and balanced approach and on the principle of shared responsibility must be sustained. Furthermore, collective resolve on the part of the international community was needed to deal with drug production and trafficking, as well as related criminal offences. The Rio Group was pleased that it had been possible to elaborate guidelines for the presentation of national reports, as agreed upon during the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It was of utmost importance that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should support Governments in their efforts to submit their reports, particularly in the area of data collection.

43. Prevention of the illicit use of drugs among children and young people and control of international trade in chemical precursors were areas of particular interest to members of the Rio Group, and he thanked the United Nations Office in Vienna and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for their valuable support.

44. In 1999 the States members of the Organization of American States had adopted an intergovernmental multilateral evaluation mechanism, based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial jurisdiction and internal legal order of States, as well as reciprocity, shared responsibility and a comprehensive and balanced approach to the problem. The mechanism constituted an objective and balanced instrument for evaluating the specific characteristics of the drug problem. It was expected that the results of the first round of evaluation would be concluded in time for the 2001 Summit of the Americas.

45. Speaking in his capacity as the representative of Colombia, he commented on the problem of drugs in the context of globalization, namely, the greater movement of narcotic drugs, small arms and illicit operations. Such movements had had devastating and incalculable effects for countries such as his. Nevertheless, in recent years, Colombian society had changed its attitude towards the drug problem and, as a whole, had joined in the fight against criminal activity. His Government was convinced that it was possible to take advantage of the benefits of globalization through collective action and commitment to shared responsibility.

46. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the international community for its solidarity and support for Colombia in the past, and for its willingness to participate in the peace process and programme of eradication of illicit crops.

47. **Mr. Carp** (United States of America) said that the Government of Colombia's comprehensive and balanced response to its interrelated social, economic and security challenges constituted an integrated strategy which addressed human rights, democratization, judicial reform, social and economic development and peace. Because of the high human and economic cost of the drug problem in the United States his Government had an obvious interest in stemming trafficking in drugs.

48. The United States Government had recently approved a 1.3 billion dollar assistance package to Colombia and other countries of the region to consolidate counter-drug gains and to ensure that illicit drug trafficking and production were not driven into neighbouring countries as a result of successful efforts in Colombia.

49. The assistance package incorporated the following components: support for human rights and judicial reform, expansion of counter-narcotics operations, alternative economic development, increased interdiction efforts and assistance to the Colombian police force. He stressed that the package could provide only a portion of the support needed to fulfil the goals of drug eradication, and he therefore urged the international community to provide further assistance to implement social and developmental programmes which were essential to removing the root causes of the drug problem in Colombia.

50. The United States would continue to provide assistance in the form of goods and services, with no involvement of United States armed forces. Assistance to the Colombian police and armed forces would be provided under strict application of United States law designed to protect human rights.

51. Both the Colombian and United States Governments agreed that ending civil conflict was central to solving the problems in Colombia. A peace agreement would bring stability, stimulate economic recovery and safeguard the protection of human rights,

in addition to restoring the authority and control of the Colombian Government in the coca-growing region.

52. **Mr. Mamba** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that efforts must be enhanced to support the efforts of countries aimed at strengthening institutional capacity to confront the spread of transnational organized crime and the global drug problem. In addressing such problems, it remained important to review the prevailing overall economic, political, social and legal environment. An international policy framework should be developed to generate urgent and effective measures on issues of crime prevention and international drug control.

53. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, held in April 2000, had provided a useful forum for the international community to formulate further strategies for cooperation to combat transnational crime, promote the rule of law and strengthen criminal justice. SADC welcomed the outcome of the Congress and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice. In order for that Declaration to yield meaningful results, it must be provided with adequate financial and technical resources for its implementation.

54. It was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, at its forthcoming eleventh session, would complete its work on the three protocols additional to the Convention and that Member States would bring their national legislation into line with those instruments. There was a need for capacity-building, including training and technical assistance, to enable States to strengthen their law enforcement structures and criminal justice systems in order to comply with their obligations under the Convention and the protocols thereto. His delegation endorsed the Ad Hoc Committee's view that an international legal instrument against corruption was also desirable, given the increase in corruption linked to the negative social and economic consequences of globalization.

55. The SADC States remained convinced that the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders could make an important contribution to the efforts of African countries to fight crime provided that it had adequate resources. They therefore urged the approval by the General Assembly of the proposals made by the Governing Board of the Institute at its sixth ordinary session to address its financial situation.

56. The adoption by the General Assembly, in resolution 54/132, of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction had been an important step, by which the international community had recognized that demand reduction was an essential component of efforts to counter the world drug problem. The year 2003 had been established as the target date for the implementation by States of new or enhanced demand reduction strategies and programmes. It must be recognized that developing countries would require international assistance for that purpose. Also, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) must receive additional resources to enable it to provide the necessary guidance. The SADC States wished to urge all countries and organizations with the capacity to do so to contribute to the Programme.

57. **Mr. Pfanzelter** (Austria) said that his delegation welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations on the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The three protocols additional thereto, which addressed illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea, and trafficking in persons, especially women and children, should be finalized in time for their adoption by the Millennium Assembly. The Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) would require additional human and financial resources to enable it to promote the speedy entry into force — and implementation of those instruments.

58. He expressed concern that, according to the recent survey of opium poppy cultivation undertaken by UNDCP, Afghanistan remained the world's largest opium producer, a situation that contributed to instability in the region. He noted, in that connection, that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was supporting the efforts of the central Asian States to deal effectively with the multiple challenges to their security. It was currently organizing, in conjunction with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), an international conference on drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in October 2000.

59. It was to be hoped that the ODCCP project aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, which was to have a particular focus on Eastern Europe, would be implemented at the earliest opportunity, since it would have an immediate effect on security in the region and thus contribute to human well-being.

60. **Mr. Picasso** (Peru) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Rio Group. The international community had made significant progress in countering the world drug problem since it had acknowledged the futility of policies based solely on repression of supply and demand and the need for more integrated strategies. Peru's own drug control strategy was based on three main elements, namely, interdiction, alternative development, and prevention and rehabilitation, and was being implemented in compliance with human rights standards.

61. With regard to interdiction, efforts had focused on controlling drug production and preventing the export of drugs to consumption points. As a result, illegal coca bush cultivation in Peru had declined from 125,000 hectares in 1990 to about 50,000 hectares in 1999. The only means of preventing illegal coca bush cultivation was to offer peasants a sustainable alternative. Given the high profitability of the coca leaf, the products of crop substitution must have access to world markets and command adequate prices. As to prevention and rehabilitation, programmes in those areas had had to be intensified because the local supply of drugs had grown and prices had fallen as export opportunities were restricted. The involvement of civil society in implementing such programmes was crucial.

62. Peru's political commitment to the fight against drugs was reflected in the allocation of resources from its limited national budget as part of a global strategy. The concrete and positive results that had been achieved should be supported.

63. **Mr. Amoros Nuñez** (Cuba) praised the work of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), and noted the need for increased resources for the proper implementation of the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

64. Given the escalation of criminality and the sophistication of criminal activity, vast proportions of domestic resources had been consumed in crime control operations worldwide. Socio-economic degradation in many developing countries which found themselves marginalized from the benefits of international progress and prosperity had led to violence and delinquency. The rise in international crime had become so complex that no country could resolve it single-handedly. The series of Congresses on crime prevention, held under the auspices of the United Nations, had provided a most suitable framework for cooperation among States through the formulation of useful guidelines and the identification of effective tools. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and supported the ongoing negotiations for the adoption of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In that regard, however, his Government hoped that the simultaneous negotiation of the three additional protocols would not impede progress.

65. Turning to the issue of trafficking in human beings, he said that United States legislation was encouraging large numbers of Cubans to take life-threatening risks to migrate to the United States. He noted an inconsistent trend in United States immigration policy which denied entry to Cuban persons who attempted to migrate legitimately, but automatically accepted others, including persons with criminal records, who left Cuba through dangerous and illegal means. Not only had that law been used to violate migration agreements between Cuba and the United States with respect to the return of persons intercepted during such dangerous crossings, but it had also contributed to an alarming increase in illegal traffic.

66. Cuba deplored the lack of political will on the part of some Governments to cooperate in the fight against crime, including the illicit trafficking in drugs and human beings.

67. **Ms. Nishimura** (Japan) said that, in the twenty-first century, the international community must strengthen its efforts to combat threats to the life and dignity of human beings. Her delegation therefore welcomed the pledge made by Member States in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to intensify their efforts to counter transnational organized crime and the global drug problem.

68. Her Government was committed to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations

Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. It welcomed the finalization of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and looked forward to the completion of work on the three protocols additional thereto in time for their adoption, along with the draft Convention, by the Millennium Assembly. Japan had facilitated the negotiation of the draft Convention and its additional protocols by hosting a number of meetings and seminars on issues covered by those instruments and by contributing US$ 480,000 to enable developing countries to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee. In addition, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had organized international training courses on effective methods of combating organized crime in the criminal justice system. In 2001, Japan would hold a regional law enforcement conference against transnational organized crime. Her Government also supported the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption and was committed to combating high-tech crime.

69. Turning to the issue of international drug control, she said that prevention was a much more effective and less costly means of reducing demand than treatment and rehabilitation. In that connection, it was important to provide young people with objective information about drug addiction. In order to combat Japan's drug problem, her Government had launched a five-year strategy in 1998 aimed at preventing abuse by young people, strengthening enforcement of the laws on trafficking and abuse, improving border controls and enhancing medical services.

70. Regional cooperation had been among the priorities stressed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem. In South-East Asia, drug abuse, in particular the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, was increasing rapidly. Her Government was committed to remedying that situation and to that end, was supporting two UNDCP projects, one aimed at making the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors operational in the region, and the other aimed at strengthening border controls in Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

71. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that no country could cope alone with the problem of transnational organized crime, which represented a threat to political, economic and social systems. It was therefore to be hoped that the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would facilitate the global combat against that scourge. The effectiveness of the new mechanisms envisaged in the draft Convention would depend on the universality of that instrument. Since organized crime was partly driven by social injustice, there was also a need for stronger international cooperation to promote growth and sustainable development and eradicate poverty and unemployment. With regard to the implementation of the draft Convention, due regard must be paid to the provisions on respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States.

72. His Government recognized not only the importance of crime prevention, but also the need to provide adequate resources for that purpose. Regrettably, resources for combating crime were not evenly distributed. Developing countries lacked the know-how and technology to deal with sophisticated transnational organized crime. Provision of technical assistance was therefore vital. The United Nations had a pivotal role to play in that regard, since multilateral assistance provided through the Organization enjoyed greater legitimacy than bilateral assistance, which sometimes came with conditions attached. The United Nations also had a contribution to make as a coordinator, but it must be given resources commensurate with the scale of the task at hand.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/55/SR.9

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Chairperson: Ms. Gittens-Joseph ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice *(continued)* (A/55/119, A/55/156, A/55/162-S/2000/715, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/C.3/55/L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Agenda item 106: International drug control *(continued)* (A/55/126, A/55/375, A/55/68-S/2000/377, A/55/133-S/2000/682, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/55/260-S/2000/108, A/55/326-S/2000/834)

1. **Mr. Al-Qahtani** (United Arab Emirates) said that it was essential for the international community to address the economic, social and human ills caused by drug trafficking and crime. To that end, his country had introduced deterrent laws and punishments which were based on Islam and which had reduced both problems. In addition, it had recruited qualified customs officers who received ongoing training in the detection of new drug trafficking methods and had the very latest equipment. Moreover, it had established a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts and had created summer programmes and activities in order to occupy young persons, some of whom were also recruited during the summer by government agencies in return for a decent wage. Furthermore, focus was placed on awareness-raising through the various media and a local strategy was employed that was based on the comprehensive plan drawn up by international and regional organizations, as well as on the Arab strategy formulated in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Lastly, he confirmed that his country was looking forward to attending the High-level Political Signing Conference to be held in Palermo for the purpose of signing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto.

2. **Ms. Mocaroni** (San Marino) said that the problems of drug addiction and rehabilitation of addicts must be tackled on all fronts. Initiatives by local communities should be encouraged and helped by Governments and international organizations. The Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (S-20/2, annex) offered guidance in that respect.

3. San Marino had signed the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime of the Council of Europe and had ratified the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It was ready to support common action towards the elimination of the drug problem, and in particular to fight money laundering.

4. Notwithstanding its small size, San Marino suffered harshly from the problem of drug addiction among its young people. It therefore recognized the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. It was interesting that the reasons which lay behind drug consumption, such as poverty and violence, resembled the effects of drug abuse. Her Government believed that action should be concentrated in two fields: containment of drug trafficking and consumption, on the one hand, and efforts to improve values education, starting with families and schools, on the other.

5. The toughest obstacle to international drug control was the control of production, since that involved one of the world's biggest plagues, poverty. There was a clear link between poverty and the increase in drug production and drug trafficking. The only solution was to provide poor countries with possibilities for achieving better living standards without having to carry on illegal activities; debt cancellation was a first step in that direction.

6. **Mr. Donoso** (Chile) said that one of the major contributions of the Political Declaration was the concept of a world drug problem, closing the previously unbridgeable divide in the perception of the problem between producer and consumer countries.

7. Chile had constantly reiterated its commitment to overcoming the world drug problem through unconditional respect for the general principles of international law laid down in the Charter, particularly full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States. The solution of the world drug problem was a common challenge, requiring States to display political will and cooperate with each other.

8. The distinctive feature of the world drug problem was its transnational nature: drugs crossed political, legal and even ideological borders. Its participants formed a network which was often beyond the reach of the traditional prosecuting mechanisms of the State or States; at the global level, therefore, the State had a comparative disadvantage in dealing with the problem. State institutions, whether alone or in cooperation with other States, lacked the instruments, mechanisms, versatility and speed needed to counteract the world drug problem, especially in respect of related crimes. An imaginative set of measures to deal with the problem at the transnational level was therefore required. At the same time, the State and its institutions were responsible to its citizens for the prevention and eradication of the problem, and the State needed to make up for its comparative disadvantage, particularly through international cooperation.

9. The concept of human security emanating from the Lysen Declaration constituted an innovative and promising approach to a highly complex issue. Protection of the individual, especially children and young people, which involved not merely the absence of real or potential threats to their integrity but also a climate of support for the development of their potential, should move to the centre of efforts to overcome that problem and other major problems facing countries.

10. The most effective way to overcome the world drug problem was through international cooperation at all levels — global, within UNDCP, and in other regional and bilateral bodies, such as the Organization of American States and the European Union.

11. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that the work of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in strengthening the coordination and development of operational activities, particularly in combating organized crime, should be reflected in appropriate allocations from the regular budget. The approval of the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime reflected the sense of urgency of the international community with regard to acquiring the legal, technical and human means to confront the danger posed to democracies by criminal organizations.

12. Since 1993, Monaco had been developing appropriate legislation to combat money-laundering, which was similar to the legislation adopted in the main developed States and in some cases went further, particularly with regard to funds of criminal origin and persons who were required to make declarations. Monaco, which was a member of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), was fully aware of the need to adapt constantly to the requirements of the modern world, which could necessitate a further strengthening of its legislative and regulatory structure.

13. Monaco had taken a number of specific steps. It was doubling the size of the staff of its service for information about and monitoring of clandestine financial circuits; developing bilateral cooperation with other countries to combat money laundering, for which purpose it had established contacts with bodies in Europe and the United States; and preparing to accede to the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime of the Council of Europe.

14. The Monegasque association of banks was fully aware of the responsibilities of financial institutions. The Monegasque authorities therefore rejected the idea that Monaco was a murky financial area; access to information and cooperation were the cornerstones of the services provided by banks which, within the limited time available, had to decide whether to block a financial transaction. Trust and mutual respect among the various partners at the national and international levels were essential in that respect.

15. Monaco welcomed the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention; its research would no doubt confirm the great adaptability of criminal organizations, which could take advantage of the slightest weakness in State or international structures, aided by the development of information technologies.

16. His delegation supported the draft resolution concerning the elaboration of an effective international legal instrument against corruption. While criminal organizations disregarded national borders, it was often within States themselves that corruption took root, undermining development cooperation and assistance efforts. The international community could not continue to denounce that scourge without acquiring the means to combat it.

17. **Ms. Mesdoua** (Algeria) said that, in an era of globalization and interdependence, the international community must mobilize all its resources to end the scourge of drug trafficking. The declarations and action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the

General Assembly, based on the principles of shared responsibility and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, constituted the appropriate framework for strengthening international cooperation to eliminate drug trafficking, demand and production.

18. Her delegation was pleased to learn of the incorporation of those commitments into national plans, the implementation of programmes to eradicate illicit drug crops and increased international cooperation in enforcement. It was concerned, however, about the establishment in some of the developed countries of drug injection rooms, which encouraged drug abuse and drug trafficking.

19. In Africa, drug abuse and drug trafficking were increasingly linked with armed conflict and with poverty. The poverty generated by economic and social upheavals and the negative effects of structural adjustment measures had driven many, young people in particular, to turn to drugs as a source of income or as an escape from a lack of employment and prospects.

20. The third African meeting of experts on drugs, held in Algiers in February 2000, had culminated in recommendations on both demand reduction and law enforcement. The experts had recommended a common intergovernmental plan of action for Organization of African Unity (OAU) member States, to be based on the creation of a data bank and including awareness-raising campaigns, personnel training, school drug prevention programmes, and shelters and treatment for addicts. The experts had also recommended that all OAU member States should ratify the United Nations Conventions of 1961 and 1971 and should develop judicial cooperation programmes. They had called for a greater exchange of information among the African countries, better coordination of drug control policy, the creation of a mechanism to combat money-laundering and elaboration of a common list for the dispensing of psychotropic substances. Her delegation hoped that UNDCP would fully support the OAU plan of action and would be allocated adequate resources to carry out its responsibilities.

21. Her delegation supported the adoption of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as a first step in combating international crime and hoped that the three additional international legal instruments in preparation would also be ready for adoption at the current Assembly session.

22. The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, had been a major step forward. Algeria particularly welcomed paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Declaration, which embodied the commitment to take effective, resolute and speedy action to prevent and combat terrorism and the commitment to incorporate into international crime prevention strategies and norms measures to prevent and combat crime associated with racism and xenophobia. Implementation of the Vienna Declaration would require a coherent and practical plan, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which had a key role to play in follow-up and implementation, should address the question at its tenth session.

23. Although Algeria was not a large producer or consumer of drugs, it had become a major transit country. The Government had taken steps to combat the problem, among other things by setting up a national commission on drug addiction, creating a national office on drug control and drug addiction and devising a national master plan, which it had been implementing in cooperation with UNDCP.

24. Cognizant of the destabilizing effects of corruption on fragile economies, Algeria had been urging the international community to elaborate an international instrument against all aspects of corruption, separate from the convention on transnational crime, and was pleased to see that the idea was taking root. Her delegation advocated the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental committee to consider and negotiate the text of the convention.

25. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that his delegation was encouraged by the results of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice adopted at the Congress constituted a voluntary framework reflecting the renewed commitment of States to combat organized crime.

26. It also welcomed the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in elaborating the draft convention and the three additional international legal instruments on illicit manufacturing

of and trafficking in firearms, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

27. In addition, the international community needed to deal more vigorously with the problem of money-laundering and to speed up the process of elaborating an international instrument against corruption. In addition to efforts to suppress corruption, emphasis should be placed on prevention through improved administrative institutions, good governance, effective law enforcement, education and awareness-raising.

28. Africa had seen an alarming growth in crime, often associated with armed conflicts and illicit trafficking in drugs and small arms. He hoped that the crime prevention project for Senegal, already developed and submitted to donors, would soon become operational. At the regional level, his delegation would like to see the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders provided with sufficient human, financial and technical resources to fulfil its mandate.

29. His delegation was encouraged by the efforts of Member States to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, especially the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. It was in that area in particular that priority attention should be accorded to youth, a focus that should be incorporated into the development and execution of information, education and awareness-raising programmes. In that regard, his delegation welcomed and encouraged collaboration among UNDCP, UNICEF, Governments and non-governmental organizations to address the needs of adolescents in crisis and street children. The Government of Senegal was devoting considerable effort to information campaigns in that regard in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, the media and civil society.

30. Senegal was also reinforcing border controls, which had resulted recently in large drug seizures. It was putting into operation its national plan to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, which entailed efforts to build national anti-drug capacity, intensify preventive campaigns directed primarily towards youth, treat drug addicts and strengthen enforcement. Senegal already had a drug code and had ratified all the United Nations drug control conventions. Its initiatives were in line with the plans of action adopted by OAU in 1996 and by the Economic Community of West Africa in 1997.

31. Clearly, in addition to good legislation and good plans, considerable resources would be required to eradicate the problem of drugs throughout the world. National and regional efforts would need to be supported by international cooperation, and the capacity of UNDCP to act should be enhanced.

32. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said the world drug problem warranted the full attention of the international community with a view to preserving the health of young persons and the future of society. Having reaffirmed Egypt's support for UNDCP, he said that it had taken measures to combat illicit drug consumption and trafficking. Moreover, as well as strengthening its efforts to combat money-laundering and drug cultivation, it was endeavouring to formulate a comprehensive national strategy for drug demand reduction and to counter the adverse social effects of drug abuse, with particular focus on the treatment of drug addicts and the provision of help to the families of convicted drug offenders.

33. However, most developing countries had neither the resources nor the capabilities needed to wage an effective war against drugs, as they were primarily engaged in addressing other economic, developmental and social issues. It was therefore vital to strengthen international cooperation and the role of the United Nations and its regional offices in supporting both governmental and non-governmental efforts aimed at combating drugs, particularly in the field of information exchange and in the provision of funding and technical assistance.

34. With regard to crime prevention and criminal justice, he welcomed the High-level Political Signing Conference to be held in Palermo for the purpose of signing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. Egypt attached special importance to crime prevention by means of its general policy aimed at achieving maximum political stability and social peace in every sector of society. In accordance with the preamble to its Constitution, the sovereignty of the law was an essential guarantee of individual freedom and the sole basis for the legitimacy of authority, as well as the basis of government. Furthermore, peace could not be established without justice.

35. In accordance with the Constitution, the law and social values, Egypt's government agencies endeavoured to apply the principle of "security for society without distinction" and the rules of criminal justice and to comply fully with the due process of law. An accused person was therefore considered to be innocent until proved guilty in a criminal trial that guaranteed his self-defence.

36. At both local and international levels, Egypt had taken earnest steps to prevent crime and establish social justice through its legislative, executive and judicial authorities by developing and updating its laws and devising appropriate punishment regimes. Through the agencies concerned, it was also taking steps to ascertain the fairness of trials at every stage, ensure respect for the rights of the accused and devise a system of rehabilitation for convicted offenders on an equal opportunity basis. In addition, prisons were strictly supervised to ensure that prisoners were well treated.

37. Lastly, in view of the importance of strengthening regional crime prevention capabilities, the international community should provide the financial and technical assistance needed to enable the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to play its role as a United Nations coordinating centre in the African continent.

38. **Ms. Li Sangu** (China) said that the spread of organized crime worldwide was undermining the political stability and economic and social development of some States. Her delegation welcomed the impetus given to international cooperation in combating crime by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Her delegation urged Member States to implement the strategy and guidelines formulated at the Congress; to give more attention and support to the elaboration of the three protocols to the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and to enhance the central and coordinating role of the United Nations in combating transnational organized crime. More resources should be allocated to these efforts and made available to developing countries to face the threats posed by organized transnational criminal activities.

39. China attached great importance to the United Nations activities relating to crime prevention and criminal justice and had taken an active part in the formulation of the draft convention and protocols. China had tried, especially in recent years, to cooperate in international efforts to combat transnational organized crime. It had signed bilateral agreements on mutual assistance in judicial matters with over 40 countries. Chinese law enforcement had collaborated with counterparts abroad, with notable results.

40. At the national level, the Government of China was vigorously pursuing crime rings through special task forces. The country's Penal Code had been adapted to draw on international experience in controlling transnational crime.

41. Her delegation believed that enhanced international cooperation based on the principles of respect for State sovereignty, equality and mutual benefits and in keeping with General Assembly resolutions would lead to more fruitful results in the fight against organized crime.

42. **Mr. Karev** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the outcome of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the unanimous approval of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It was essential, however, that mechanisms should be established for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention at the national and international levels.

43. Combating corruption of all kinds was an integral part of the fight against organized crime and clearly required effective international cooperation. It was essential to have a legal base, and his delegation fully supported the draft resolution regarding an effective international legal instrument against corruption.

44. One of the most effective means of combating organized crime was to undermine its economic foundations, especially money-laundering and the illicit export of capital. That issue was particularly acute for the Russian Federation, and it had adopted a whole range of measures in that sphere. New legislation to combat money-laundering, which took into account existing international standards, was being finalized. The Russian Federation had signed the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime of the Council of Europe and would ratify it in the near future. It was very interested in cooperating with other countries to work out practical methods for joint search and confiscation of criminal proceeds.

45. Universal cooperation in crime control must be supported by adequate measures at the regional level. His Government's main priority was crime control cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States, on the basis of the inter-State programme of joint measures to combat crime over the period 2000-2003, adopted in June 2000 by the Council of Heads of State. The data bank for countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and assessment of organized crime in the Russian Federation, which was being developed jointly with the Centre for International Crime Prevention, was also of great importance, and should provide essential assistance to the competent services in collecting and analysing information on transnational criminal groups.

46. Illicit drug trafficking was a no less serious problem. In 2000, more than 20 tons of drugs had been confiscated and over 600 clandestine laboratories closed down in the Russian Federation. On the basis of its own experience, his Government could affirm that the curbing of the drug threat could not be accomplished by any individual State.

47. His delegation welcomed the work of the forty-third session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and shared its concern about the rapid increase in the manufacture and consumption of synthetic drugs and, in particular, amphetamine-type stimulants. An important element of the international strategy should be a balanced approach to the problem of precursors that would combine control measures and protection of lawful trade in those substances.

48. His Government reaffirmed its unwavering position on the inadmissibility of attempts to legalize some narcotic substances or remove them from State control under the pretext of dividing them into soft and hard drugs.

49. His Government was particularly concerned about the increased production and export of drugs from Afghanistan, which was destabilizing the whole situation in the Central Asian region. Unless the necessary measures were adopted, it was inevitable that Afghan drug exports would reach the black markets of the Russian Federation, Western Europe and North America. His Government welcomed the work of UNDCP and the countries of the "6+2" Group to create a security zone around Afghanistan. The recent adoption of the regional action plan was a significant achievement in that direction. The Russian Federation was doing its part and, in particular, was ready to continue its cooperation in the air-space monitoring of illicit drug crops.

50. His delegation supported the view that, since UNDCP carried out large-scale projects in the area of drug control, it should be allocated sufficient resources from the United Nations regular budget, particularly in view of the new tasks that it would be performing under the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

Other matters

51. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question raised at the previous meeting by the delegation of Uganda concerning the correct name of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), said that that was the official title of the Institute, conferred on it by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa in its resolution 642 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988; it did not include the words "United Nations". In the area of crime prevention, the institute which officially included the words "United Nations" in its title was the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNACRI), since it had been established as a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council in Council resolution 1989/56.

52. **Ms. Kalema** (Uganda) said that there were five regional institutes in the area of crime prevention, all with similar objectives. Some of them, at least, retained the words "United Nations" in their titles, for example, the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the United Nations Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). It was not clear to her delegation why UNAFRI should be treated differently. Moreover, United Nations documents and resolutions and the documentation and logo of UNAFRI itself had regularly referred to the Institute as the "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" until the previous year, when the Secretariat had decided it should be changed. Her delegation would appreciate further clarification on this point.

53. **The Chairperson** said she took it that the Secretariat would research the matter further.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.